

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTHERN DIVISION**

Neighborhood Networks Publishing,  
Inc. and N2 Franchising, LLC,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Jacqueline Marie Lyles and Lifestyle  
Publications, LLC,

Defendants.

Case No. 7:19-CV-00089-BO

Superior Court of New Hanover  
County  
Case No. 19-CVS-001474

**ANSWER TO COMPLAINT**

Defendant Lifestyle Publications, LLC (“Defendant”) for its answer to Neighborhood Networks Publishing, Inc. and N2 Franchising, LLC’s Verified Complaint (“Complaint”) admits, denies and alleges as follows:

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 1 of the Complaint.
2. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 2 of the Complaint.
3. Paragraph 3 of the Complaint is a conclusion that does not require an answer from this Defendant, and therefore Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 3 of the Complaint.

**PARTIES AND JURISDICTION**

4. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 4 of the Complaint.
5. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 5 of the Complaint.

6. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 6 of the Complaint.

7. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 7 of the Complaint.

8. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 8 of the Complaint.

9. Defendant admits that it is engaged in the community publication business, but denies the remaining allegations in Paragraph 9 of the Complaint.

10. Defendant admits that it contracts with publishers that print magazines in the North Carolina communities identified, but denies the remaining allegations in Paragraph 10 of the Complaint.

11. Defendant admits the allegations in Paragraph 11 of the Complaint as it relates to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Southern Division. Defendant denies the remaining allegations in Paragraph 11 of the Complaint.

12. Defendant admits the allegations in Paragraph 12 of the Complaint as it relates to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Southern Division. Defendant denies the remaining allegations in Paragraph 12 of the Complaint.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

13. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 13 of the Complaint.

14. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 14 of the Complaint.

15. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 15 of the Complaint.

16. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 16 of the Complaint.

17. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 17 of the Complaint.

18. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 18 of the Complaint.

19. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 19 of the Complaint.

20. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 20 of the Complaint.

21. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 21 of the Complaint.

22. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 22 of the Complaint.

23. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 23 of the Complaint.

24. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 24 of the Complaint.

25. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 25 of the Complaint.

26. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 26 of the Complaint.

27. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 27 of the Complaint.

28. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 28 of the Complaint.

29. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 29 of the Complaint.

30. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 30 of the Complaint.

31. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 31 of the Complaint.

32. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 32 of the Complaint.

33. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 33 of the Complaint.

34. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 34 of the Complaint.

35. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 35 of the Complaint.

36. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 36 of the Complaint.

37. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 37 of the Complaint.

38. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 38 of the Complaint.

39. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 39 of the Complaint.

40. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 40 of the Complaint.

41. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 41 of the Complaint.

42. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 42 of the Complaint.

43. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 43 of the Complaint.

44. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 44 of the Complaint.

45. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 45 of the Complaint.

46. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 46 of the Complaint.

47. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 47 of the Complaint.

48. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 48 of the Complaint.

49. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 49 of the Complaint.

50. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 50 of the Complaint.

51. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 51 of the Complaint.

### **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

52. Defendant incorporates by reference the previous portions of this Answer herein.

53. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 53 of the Complaint.

54. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 54 of the Complaint.

55. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 55 of the Complaint.

56. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 56 of the Complaint.

57. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 57 of the Complaint.

58. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 58 of the Complaint.

59. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 59 of the Complaint.

60. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 60 of the Complaint.

61. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 61 of the Complaint.

62. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 62 of the Complaint.

63. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 63 of the Complaint.

64. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 64 of the Complaint.

65. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 65 of the Complaint.

66. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 66 of the Complaint.

67. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 67 of the Complaint.

## **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

68. Defendant incorporates by reference the previous portions of this Answer herein.

69. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 69 of the Complaint.

70. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 70 of the Complaint.

71. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 71 of the Complaint.

72. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 72 of the Complaint.

73. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 73 of the Complaint.

74. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 74 of the Complaint.

75. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 75 of the Complaint.

76. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 76 of the Complaint.

77. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 77 of the Complaint.

78. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 78 of the Complaint.

79. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 79 of the Complaint.

## **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

80. Defendant incorporates by reference the previous portions of this Answer herein.

81. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 81 of the Complaint.

82. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 82 of the Complaint.

83. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 83 of the Complaint.

84. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 84 of the Complaint.

85. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 85 of the Complaint.

86. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 86 of the Complaint.

#### **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

87. Defendant incorporates by reference the previous portions of this Answer herein.

88. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 88 of the Complaint.

89. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 89 of the Complaint.

90. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 90 of the Complaint.

91. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 91 of the Complaint.

92. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 92 of the Complaint.

93. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 93 of the Complaint.

94. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 94 of the Complaint.

95. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 95 of the Complaint.

#### **FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

96. Defendant incorporates by reference the previous portions of this Answer herein.

97. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 97 of the Complaint.

98. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 98 of the Complaint.

99. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 99 of the Complaint.



100. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 100 of the Complaint.

101. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 101 of the Complaint.

102. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 102 of the Complaint.

#### **SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

103. Defendant incorporates by reference the previous portions of this Answer herein.

104. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 104 of the Complaint.

105. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 105 of the Complaint.

106. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 106 of the Complaint.

107. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 107 of the Complaint.

108. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 108 of the Complaint.

#### **SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

109. Defendant incorporates by reference the previous portions of this Answer herein.

110. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 110 of the Complaint.

111. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 111 of the Complaint.

112. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 112 of the Complaint.

113. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 113 of the Complaint.

114. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 114 of the Complaint.

115. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 115 of the Complaint.

116. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 116 of the Complaint.

117. Defendant lacks sufficient information or belief to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 117 of the Complaint.

118. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 118 of the Complaint.

119. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 119 of the Complaint.

120. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 120 of the Complaint.

121. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 121 of the Complaint.

#### **EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

122. Defendant incorporates by reference the previous portions of this Answer herein.

123. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 123 of the Complaint.

124. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 124 of the Complaint.

#### **TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

125. Defendant incorporates by reference the previous portions of this Answer herein.

126. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 126 of the Complaint.

127. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 127 of the Complaint.

128. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 128 of the Complaint.

129. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 129 of the Complaint.

130. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 130 of the Complaint.

131. Defendant denies the allegations in Paragraph 131 of the Complaint.

### **GENERAL DENIAL**

Defendant generally and specifically denies each allegation not expressly admitted herein. Defendant further denies that Plaintiffs have suffered any damages or is entitled to any relief as alleged in the Complaint, or at all.

### **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

1. Plaintiffs' Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.
2. Plaintiffs' claims are barred by equity, including laches, waiver and/or estoppel.
3. Plaintiffs' claims are barred by an absolute and/or qualified privilege, including competitor's privilege.
4. Defendant denies causing Plaintiff to suffer any damages and affirmatively alleges, upon information and belief, that Plaintiffs' claims are barred in whole or in part because Plaintiffs have, or discovery will show Plaintiffs have, failed to mitigate any damages claimed to have been suffered.
5. Defendant affirmatively alleges that Plaintiffs, through their own negligence and fault, proximately caused the injuries (in whole or in part to the extent there are any) which are the subject of the Complaint.
6. Discovery may reveal facts that support other affirmative defenses such as those listed in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, all of which Defendant hereby expressly reserves.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF AND JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

7. Defendant hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.
8. WHEREFORE, Defendant requests that this Court enter Judgment in favor of Defendant, dismiss Plaintiffs' Complaint in its entirety, award Defendant the costs and attorneys' fees that it incurred in having to defend against Plaintiffs'

claims, and award Defendants such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.

By: /s/ Amy P. Hunt

Amy P. Hunt (34166)  
**HORACK, TALLEY, PHARR &  
LOWNDES, P.A.**  
2600 One Wells Fargo Center  
301 South College Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202-6006  
Telephone: (704) 377-2500  
Facsimile: (704) 714-7935  
E-mail: [AHunt@horacktalley.com](mailto:AHunt@horacktalley.com)

Sean W. Colligan (18138)  
**STINSON LLP**  
1201 Walnut Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106  
Telephone: (816) 842-8600  
Facsimile: (816) 691-3495  
E-mail: [sean.colligan@stinson.com](mailto:sean.colligan@stinson.com)

Lonnie J. Williams, Jr. (pro hac vice  
forthcoming)  
Carrie M. Francis (pro hac vice  
forthcoming)  
**STINSON LLP**  
1850 North Central Avenue, Suite 2100  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-4584  
Telephone: (602) 279-1600  
Facsimile: (602) 240-6925  
Email: [lonnie.williams@stinson.com](mailto:lonnie.williams@stinson.com)  
[carrie.francis@stinson.com](mailto:carrie.francis@stinson.com)

Attorneys for Lifestyle Publications,  
LLC

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on May 16, 2019, I caused the foregoing document to be filed electronically with the Clerk of Court through ECF; and as Plaintiffs' counsel is not yet a registered ECF user for this matter, I sent a copy by U.S. Mail and email of this same filing to:

Alexander C. Dale  
Christopher S. Edwards  
Ward and Smith, P.A.  
P.O. Box 7068  
Wilmington, NC 28406-7068  
[acd@wardandsmith.com](mailto:acd@wardandsmith.com)  
[csedwards@wardandsmith.com](mailto:csedwards@wardandsmith.com)

/s/ Amy P. Hunt